7394945/2023/VIG-I-PRR01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PR & RD Department – Filing a defamation suit on the Managing Director, Eenadu News Paper for publishing the adverse, libelous, scandalous, untruthful, unfounded, per se defamatory, derogatory news published in Eenadu Main News Paper on 10.02.2023 under the caption "Pinchanu Poyindi .. Akali Champesindi"(పించను పోయింది ఆకలి చంపేసింది) – Sanction of State Government to launch Prosecution under section 199 (2) of Cr.PC and to file defamation suit – Accorded orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG-I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.290 **Dated:- 22.05.2023.**
Read the following:-

1) News Item published in Eenadu Main News Paper, dt:10.02.2023 under caption "Pinchanu Poyindi Akali Champesindi" (పించను పోయింది ఆకలి చంపేసింది).
2) District Collector, Srikakulam District, rejoinder dated 10.02.2023 in Letter No. 01/2020/Y.S.R. Pinchan, dated: 10.02.2023.
3) News Item published in Eenadu Main News Paper dt:11.02.2023 under caption"Pinchanu Ivvadaniki Pedarikam Chalada ?".
4) G.O.Rt.No.938, GA(Poll.D) Dept., dated 20.02.2007.
5) G.O.Rt.No.2430, GA(I&PR)Dept., dated 30.10.2019.
6) Letter dated: 14.02.2023 of Spl.C.S to Govt,. PR&RD. Department.
7) Notice dated 17.03.2023 given by the State Public Prosecutor, High Court of A.P., Amaravati, Guntur District, A.P.

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ORDER:-

In the first read above, a News item was published in Eenadu Telugu daily news paper dated 10.02.2023 under the caption " Pinchanu Poyindi .. Akali Champesindi"(పించను పోయింది ఆకలి చంపేసింది)duly stating that one Sri Savara Bariki, 86 years, R/o Mamidiguddi, Pedda Padmapuram Panchayat, Meliyaputti Mandal, Srikakulam District passed away due to dereliction on the part of the authorities, which they were obliged to do it. It was further alleged that the said Sri Savara Bariki who is a Pensioner, died due to starvation as there is no other source of income from any means except his pension amount receivable from the Government. The news item was written with a prejudice and malafide intention to damage the reputation and integrity of the Government in the eyes of the public.

2. In the reference 2nd read above, the District Collector, Srikakulam District issued a rejoinder dated 10.02.2023 by placing the true facts that Sri Savara Bariki, aged 86 years, was granted old age pension on 01.04.2006 and the same was given till September, 2021. In the month of October, 2021,the pension was withheld due to the failure of bio-metric authentication- both Iris and fingerprints- due to old age. In view of his pension being withheld, as an alternative he was provided rice every month

(P.T.O)

through PDS (Public Distribution System) and also provided 100 kg of rice as a special measure in order to meet daily needs. His nephew Sri Kailasa Rao took care of him until his death. On perusal of his nephew's statement to the doctor, it is evident that the death of Sri Savara Bariki was attributed to old age ailments and not due to starvation as alleged in the news paper.

3. In the reference third read above, in furtherance to above rejoinder, the Eenadu News Paper published a rejoinder with a caption "PINCHANU IVVADANIKI PEDARIKAM CHALADA ? (పింఛను ఇవ్వడానికి పేదరికం చాలదా) on 11.02.2023 by concealing the aforesaid true facts and without any enquiry, which is highly reprehensible to professional standards of Journalism. Government issued rejoinder to the concerned functionaries of Eenadu News Paper on 10.02.2023 with true facts, However they concealed the facts by publishing the rejoinder with false headings with the intention to cause enormous damage to the reputation of the Government in the eye of public.

4. Government have, examined the matter with reference to the orders issued in the G.Os 4th and 5th read above, wherein powers have been delegated to the Secretaries of respective departments to issue rejoinders, file complaints and lodge appropriate cases, under sub section (4) of section 199 Cr.P.C., if need be, through Public Prosecutor against defamatory news items published/telecast/ posted in print/electronic/social media pertaining to their respective Departments after following due procedure.
(పింఛను పోయింది ఆకలి చంపేసింది)

5. Accordingly, vide 6thread above, the State Public Prosecutor, High Court of A.P., Guntur District was authorized to issue a legal notice against the Editor and others of Eenadu Telugu News Paper responsible for publishing defamatory, Derogatory and Venomous news which is devoid of truth. The State Public Prosecutor has issued a notice to the parties therein vide reference 7th read above.

6. Government after careful examination of the matter and all the facts and circumstances of the case consider that the said news items containing the allegations under the captions "Pinchanu Poyindi .. Aakali Champesindi" (పింఛను పోయింది ఆకలి చంపేసింది) and "Pinchanu Ivvadaniki Pedarikam Chalada ?" (పింఛను ఇవ్వడానికి పేదరికం చాలదా) appear to be defamatory in nature and likely to cause harm to the reputation of the Government and also mar the prestige and dignity of the Government and it is expedient to launch necessary prosecution against the Chief Editor/Managing Director of Eenadu Telugu Daily News Paper in a Hon'ble Jurisdictional Court.

7. Government in exercise of powers conferred under Section 199(2) of Cr.P.C, 1973 hereby, accord sanction to launch prosecution and to file defamation suit against the Chief Editor/Managing Director of Eenadu Telugu Daily News Paper regarding libelous, scandalous, untruthful, unfounded, per se defamatory, derogatory news item published in Eenadu Telugu Daily News Paper dated 12.02.2023 under the caption "Pinchanu Poyindigi .. Akali Champesindi" (పింఛను పోయింది ఆకలి చంపేసింది) and dated 11.02.2023 under the caption " Pinchanu Ivvadaniki Pedarikam Chalada "(పింఛను ఇవ్వడానికి పేదరికం చాలదా) which is highly defamatory in nature.

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8. The State Public Prosecutor, High Court of A.P., shall take immediate further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

B. RAJSEKHAR,
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The State Public Prosecutor, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.
Copy to:
The Chief Executive Officer, SERP, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Law (F) Department.
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER